

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049640

FOLL SENT ACTION TEL AVIV INFO SECSTATE FROM WARSAW 15 MAR 73
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1203

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, PL

SUBJECT: BNAI BRITH VISIT TO POLAND

REF: WARSAW 1163

1. SPASOWSKI INTRODUCED HIS PRESENTATION BY SAYING THAT THE TIME AVAILABLE TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER HAD BEEN RATHER SHORT AND THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING WHICH HAD LET THE POLISH SIDE TO DECIDE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THE FIRST CONTACTS WITH BNAI BRITH COULD BE HANDLED BY THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. REFERRING TO EDELSBERG' S MARCH 1, DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI, SPASOWSKI SAID EDELSBERG HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING POLIAND IN JULY, IF IT SHOULD NOT PROVE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THE VISIT NOW. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER THIS MIMING WOULD BE THE BEST, SINCE THIS WAS VACATION TIME, BUT THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE VISIT MIGHT OCCUR COULD BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON AND JULY SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED AS A POSSIBILITY. THE MINISTRY HAD CONSEQUENTLY INSTRUCTED THE EMBASSY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT BLUMBERG OR
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MR. EDELSBERG IN ORDER TO INITIATE THESE DISCUSSIONS.

2. SPASOWSKI THEN SAID THAT, AS I PERHAPS KNEW, THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL POLISH CONTACTS WITH RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. THERE HAD BEEN A PERIOD WHEN THE AMERICAN PRESS PUBLISHED SOME " UNFORTUNATE" ARTICLES ABOUT THE ALLEGED ATTITUDE OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT TOWARDS JEWS. (I SAID I WAS AWARE OF THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE PERIOD TO WHICH HE REFERRED, AS WELL AS OF THE PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE EVENTS WHICH HAD THEN OCCURRED .) HOW, HOWEVER, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR POLISH- AMERICAN RELATIONS TO DEVELOP SUCH CONTACTS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE SPASOWSKI WAS OBVIOUSLY GIVING A NEGATIVE REPLY TO BNAI BRITH INQUIRY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING RECEIVED NOW IN WARSAW BY COMPETENT POLISH OFFICIALS, HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTACT WITH BNAI BRITH WAS CLEARLY POSITIVE. WHILE HIS TREATMENT OF A LATER VISIT TO POLAND WAS QUALIFIED, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE POLES ARE QUITE READY TO CONTEMPLATE ONE, SUBJECT TO THE RESULTS OF WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS DURING WHICH THEY HOPE TO GET A FIX ON BNAI BRITH' S SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST. END COMMENT.

4. IN PASSING THIS INFORMATION (INCLUDING THE EVALUATION IN PARAGRAPH 3) TO HERMAN EDELSBERG, YOU MAY TELL HIM FROM ME THAT I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE POLISH RESPONSE. IF HE WANTS MY PERSONAL OPINION, I WOULD URGE THAT BNAI BRITH NOW PROCEED TO ENTER INTO THE PROPOSED TALKS IN WASHINGTON.
DAVIES UNQUOTE ROGERS

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